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## **Headline: High School Seniors Compete for Merit Scholarships**

Grass Valley, California, 04-08-14 — Fourteen High School Seniors competed for \$15,000 in scholarship grants when they tackled TechTest2014, a merit scholarship exam sponsored by the Sierra Economic and Science Foundation, at the Nevada Union High School, on Saturday, April 5th, 2014.

The TechTest Merit Scholarship program was started in 2007 by SESF Board Members. The purpose is to encourage High School graduates to seek careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

The test is prepared by SESF Board member Dr. George Rebane and is administered and graded by John McDaniel, a Physics Teacher at Nevada Union. All Seniors from Truckee, Bear River, Nevada Union and Charter High Schools are encouraged to participate, but the majority often come from Nevada Union. This year two Bear River students and 12 Nevada Union Students participated, four young women and eight young men. “Most students spent three or more hours on the grueling exam, said John McDaniel. “Past students who have taken the exam include students who currently attend Princeton, Berkeley, UCLA, Harvard, Stanford and Cal Poly, each majoring in a STEM based program.”

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## **Seniors Compete for Merit Scholarships (page 2)**

TechTest2014 winners will be announced at the High School Award nights. The top scoring student will awarded \$6,000, the second \$4,000, and third \$2,000. All participants are given an award for participating in this important program. And, all participants are also treated to a TechTest survivors breakfast in May, and a survivors T-shirt with a bold declaration on the back **Tech Test “Where the Elite compete.”**

SESF’s TechTestJr merit scholarship test for 8th Grade students will be administered in a few weeks at participating Middle Schools. The purpose of this program is encourage students entering high schools to take math and science classes to prepare for STEM careers and enhance their ability to compete for TechTest Merit Scholarship Grants when they are Seniors.

Additional information on TechTest and TechTestJr can be found at the SESF website (<http://sesfoundation.org>). All TechTest questions and answers, including TechTest2014, can be found on the webpage.